2000 1-10 K SPECIAL MANDLING TO 1.60 Aer-MA-612/366 IN ACCORDANGS WITH PART VII, OPNAVINST 3750.63 1 - AF 1 1957 SIXTH ENDORSEMENT on VAH-11 AAR serial 2-56 concerning AJ-1, Bullo 124852, augident occurring 27 Oct 1956, pilot BROWNLEE From: Chief, Bureau of Aeronauties Chief of Naval Operations To : Director, U. S. Baval Aviation Safety Center Via: Subj: Aircraft Accident Reports forwarding of 1. Forwarded. By direction Copy to: COMMIRIANT COMCARD BE-2 COMATG-202 GO, VAH-11

OF RESIDENCE

compring 27 007 56 on tot BECANLEY

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To Chaor of Revol Operations (Operat) ...

Vis. (1) Chief, Sureau of description (aspects)

(2) Director, U.S. Naval Aviation Julyby Contor

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1 forwarded, concurring in the came unions and recommindations of the aircraft actions. Found and in the Penards contained in Mrior.

(b) (6)

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FOURTH EMPORSIZENT on VAN-11 AAR ser 02-56 or morning AJ-1, 124852, seeddent occurring 27 October 1956, Pilot Blusselle.

From: Communior Carrier Division TWO

To: Chief of Navel Operations (Op-57)

Vint (1) Commander Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Floor

(2) Chief Sureau of Aeronauties

(3) Mirector, U.O. Naval Aviation Safety Center

Subje Alveract Againent Report

1. Forwarded, concurring with conclusions and recommendations of the accident report.

2. The statement made in enclosure (8), addendum on BAILSY, J.R., with repard to the greements having to stand is not concurred in. Although the greemen must stand in order to open the pilot's ascape hatch, this can be accomplished just prior to the "break" when the aircraft has reduced speed, but before any low altitude turns have been made.

I Hard,

COTY to: CATG-202 CO, VAH-11

GVA15/A25 04:3057:g1 Seri 2750 9 DEC 1956 THERD ENGORSECORY on VAH-II ALR Serial 02-56 concerning AJ-1, 124852 accident occurring 27 Catober 1956, Filot BROWNESS Gommanding Officer Tot Chief of Naval Operations (OP-42) -(1) Commander Carrier Division WO (2) Commander Air Porne, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (3) Chief Bareau of Aeronautics (4) Director, U.S. Naval Aviation Safety Center VAH-Il AAR Sertal 02-56 concerning Ad-1, 14752, accident Subji communing 27 October 1956, Pilot December 1. Forwarded, conquering with the conclusions and recommendations of the accident report. 2. It is considered however that the possibility exists that LODR NEW BUSINESS Buffered some type of physical breakdown at the time of this erash, as avidenced by anclosure (8).

Gory to: d

4

I Smith !

SECOND EMPONSEMENT on VAH-11 AR Serial 02-56 concerning AJ-1, 124852 accident occuring 27 October 1956, Filest ARUNNIFE

From: Commander Air Task Group TWO ZERO TWO
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-57)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer U.S.S. HAMDOLPH (CVA-15)
(2) Commander Caprier Division TWO
(3) Gommander Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet
(4) Onief Dureau of Aerodautics
(5) Director, U.S. Haval Aviation Safety Center

Subj: VAH-II AAR Serial 02-56 concerning AJ-1, 124852, addident occuring 27 October 1956, Pilot Significe

1. Forwarded, concurring with the conclusions and recommendations of the accident report.

Los Dong &

· ORIGINAL •

V.NI=11/11/art A25 Bor 4852 14 NOV 56

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on VAH-IL ARR Serial 02-56 concorning AJ-1, 124852, accident occuring 27 OCT 56, Pilot DROWNLES

From: Commanding Officer, Heavy Attack Squadren ELEVEN

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OF-57)

Via: (1) Commander (20 202

(2) USS RANDOLPH (CVA=15)

(3) COLG RDIV TWO

(4) COMATHIANT

(6) Director, U.S. Naval Aviation Safety Center

Subj: VAH-II AAR Sar C2-56 concerning aJ-1, 124052, accident occuring 27 OCT 56, Pilot BROWNLEE

- 1. Ferwarded, concurring with the conclusions and recommendations of the accident report.
- 2. It is apparent that any evaluation of the cause of this accident based upon the evidence available must be conjecture. Vertigo is a common cause of accidents to inexperienced pilots, but for less frequent in well qualified instrument pilots, such as LCDR BROWNLEE, who know the dangers of simultaneously combining instrument and constact flying and abandoring flight instruments for sensory impressions. For this reason, although vertigo sooms the most likely cause of the accident, the following possibilities cannot be eliminated:
- a. A melfunction of pressure altimeter system. Dangerous leaks were found in an airplane in another detachment at the time of the accident. The radio altimeter on the AJ is unreliable and a continuing maintenance problem.
- b. Pilot distraction at night caused by such items as fire warning lights with the application of approach power settings, a hook warning light, jammed comples and unsafe goar indications. The above items have been encountered on recent night flights and have proven to be highly disconcerting.
- c. A serious sudden failure or malfunction at low altitudes that so engressed the pilot that he failed to report his difficulties. The belief that arew members were not secured for landing lends some credence to the possibility that they were attempting to assist the pilot in some way.
- 3. LODR BROWNLEE was a mature pilot and a capable and conservative ad pilot with an excellent background in multi-engine instrument flying. He progressed normally in his pro-deployment training and no

Subj: Vall-11 alk Sor 02-56 concerning AJ-1, 124852, accident occurring 27 OCT 56, PILOT BROWNLEE

apprehension was detected in his appreach to his new field of carrier aviation. During the wook proceding the accident he flow 10 day hours, 2 night hours and made 1 carrier landing . His last night carrior landing was made 28 August 1956. He had had no accidents since reporting to this squadron in June 1955.

- 4. The dangers of night corrier landings have been repeatedly stressod in squadron night flying loctures with particular emphasis on having all items that might distract the pilot or require large power and trim changes accomplished prior to passing the starboard side when entering the pattern.
- 5. Four craw members are not required to operate the AJ and action hos been initiated to restrict sirborne trouble shooting of iJ equipmont to daylight hours.
- 6. Action has also been initiated to insure pilots reporting to shipboard detachments a manimum of three day landings prior to a flight terminating in a night corrier landing.
- 7. The medical officer's addendum to the summery of UNDERWOOD's autopay findings recommending that suitable flight goar be made eveilable for non-crow nembers in a flight status is noted. Action is being taken to increase the squadron flight goar allowance.

E. C. MILDIAN Milsalus

Copy to: Naval Aviation Safety Center (2) COMPLITATING ONE BULER (LER 51) BAR COLUMBUS OHIO

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V. The Accident:

LCDR ORVILLE S. BROWNLEE in AJ-1, BUNO 124852, was launched from the USS RANDOLPH (CVA-15) at 1816B on 27 October 1956. His regular flight crew was aboard with him, plus UNDERWOOD, B. M., AQ1, who was riding as radar observer. The flight purpose was local night navigation and familiarization.

After approximately 2.0 hours of flight, LCDR BROWNLEE reported over the ship at 7000 feet altitude for the scheduled 2045B recovery. At about 2035B he was cleared to descend to 3000 feet and given the order of landing. He was to be the final recovery following a flight of three AD's. After all the AD's had reported in the landing pattern the AJ was cleared down to 1500 feet.

About 2050B, after the last AD had reported turning downwind, the AJ was cleared by the Air Officer to enter the landing pattern following the three AD's. He acknowledged this transmission and flew wide along the starboard side of the ship at about 800 feet stating that he was entering the pattern upwind. The aircraft then proceeded up ahead of the ship to a normal position for turning downwind and reported turning downwind. This was the last transmission heard from the plane. His position at that time was located at 35°-48'N 25°-32E.

After several unsuccessful attempts to raise the AJ on radio, the USS RANDOLPH along with the destroyers, USS GREENE and USS BORDELON, immediately returned to the last known position of the lost aircraft. The search continued throughout the night; this search force was joined by ships of COMPHIBGRUFOUR at approximately O600B. The scene of the crash, marked by floating debris, was located shortly after first light Sunday, 28 October 1956. The search was discontinued at approximately 1100B, 28 October 1956.

The bodies of BAILEY and UNDERWOOD were recovered along with three helmets, two life jackets, the port wing tip tank, long range oil tank, oxygen bottle, UHF transceiver, sections of the shattered radome and numerous charts and publications. The ocean depth at the scene of the accident is 800 fathoms.

VI. Damage to Aircraft:

Since there were no witnesses to the aircraft accident, no accurate description can be given of damage to the plane. However, debris salvaged the following morning at the scene of the crash indicates that the plane broke on impact with the water.

VII. The Investigation:

The following matters pertinent to the accident were considered:

1. The aircraft was materially sound before the flight and in an "UP" status.

VII continued:

- 2. The pilot had a 3.0 hour day flight and one carrior lending the same day of the accident.
- 3. The pilot and all crew members were performing an authorized flight at the time of the accident.
 - 4. The pilot was qualified at night for landings abourd angle deck carriers in AJ-1 aircraft.
- 5. The fatal flight was the pilot's first night carrier flight within the last thirty days.
- 6. Two way radio communications between the ship and aircraft were excellent up to the time of crash. No malfunctions of any nature were reported.
- 7. The aircraft was observed flying upwind in the landing pattern to a position shead of the ship, at normal altitude and attitude.
- 8. There existed little or no horizon at the time of the accident and cases of vertigo were reported by pilots returning from flights the night of the accident.

VIII. The Analysis:

- 1. There was no evidence of material failure or malfunction.
- 2. Personnel safety equipment is covered in the Modical Officer's report. However, conditions of the bodies recovered, and the fact that they were recovered from the surface of the water, indicates that RAILEY and UNDERWOOD were probably not strapped in their assigned landing stations.

XI. Conclusions and Recommendations:

1. The cause or causes of this accident are undetermined. However, it is considered the pilot may have experienced vertigo while making his turn into the downwind leg.

2. It is recommended:

- (a) That all pilots be reminded of the danger of this upwind turn and to rely on instrument flying rather than visual reference under conditions where the horizon is partially obscured.
- (b) That early securing of all crew members in their assigned spaces be emphasized. Farticular attention should be made to an early completion of the landing check-off list prior to turning to the downwind log with a positive report that all members are secure and ready for landing.

ST.TEENT OF CDR (b) (6)

USN Concerning the loss of AJ-1 BuNo 124852

I was in Primary Fly during the night recovery on 27 October 1956. Radio communications with all planes in the air was good and CDR (b) (6) the Assistant Air Officer, was directing the flow of landing traffic by radio. He made one or two information transmissions to the AJ-1 concerning the number of AD's left to land. These transmissions were receipted for and when the AD count got down to three, the AJ-1 was directed to enter the landing pattern. The pilot again receipted for the transmissions and stated that he was entering the pattern upwind. At this time I noticed the running lights of three AD aircraft and the tail light of the AJ-1 as he commenced his turn upwind ahead of the carrier. I then directed my attention to the landing AD's. When the third AD landed, I tried to visually find the AJ-1 on the downwind leg and was unsuccessful. CDR (b) (6) made several transmissions on the radio attempting to locate the aircraft. CDR (6) (6) called the Captain and informed him that the aircraft was missing. All lights on the ship were turned full on and searchlights were used in attempt to spot any wracking or survivors. Two destroyers also assisted and numerous passes were unde through the area where the aircraft went down, with negative results.

(b) (6)

STATEMENT OF COMMANDER (D) (6) (CVA-15), concerning accident of 27 October 1956:

U. S. Navy, USS RANDOLPH

I was in primary flight control at the time of the accident. AJ1, Bullo 124852, Pilot Brownlee, was in the immediate vicinity of the USS Randolph at about 2025B awaiting the scheduled 2045B recovery. The scheduled recovery consisted of 3 P2H's, 6 AD's and the AJ. At about 2050 the AJ was cleared to enter the landing pattern and was informed that 3 AD's were ahead of him in the pattern. At about 2055B the pilot reported being upwind, entering the pattern. That was the last transmission received. At about 2058B, I notified the Captain that we had lost contact and that I was concerned about him. At 2100 I called the Captain and recommended that we turn back to our 2055 position, that I thought he had flown into the water.

USS RANDOLPH (CV/-15)

STATEMENT OF COMMANDER (b) (6)

RANDOLPH (CVA-15), concerning accident of 27 October 1956:

At approximately 2025B AD-1, BuNo 124852, with radio call R-51, reported to me on the land/launch frequency, stating that he was at 7000 feet and I believe giving his fuel state as 2800 pounds. Five to ten minutes later I lowered R-51 to 3000 feet, giving him the landing order. R-51 was following a flight of three (3) AD's, then at 2500 feet. Later as the AD's entered the landing pattern for a downwind break, R-51 was lowered to 1500 feet. As the last AD stated he was breaking upwind, R-51 was given a charlie and the position of the AD he was following. When the AD was at 1800 position I asked R-51 for his position and his reply was, either I am turning upwind or going upwind. Shortly thereafter I believe I saw an aircraft tail light forward of the ship at the proper altitude. This was at approximately 2055B and the last transmission I received from R-51. After the AD was on deck I looked for the AJ's lights on the down wind leg, and not seeing the lights, again called, getting no answer. At approximately 2058, Air Operations, Combat and the Captain were notified that Primary Fly had last contact with R-51.

The latest altimeter setting is available in primary fly, but not given to aircraft unless asked for. I had given the setting to some aircraft prior to the launch, but do not remember giving the setting during or prior to this recovery.

(b) (6)

USS RANDOLPH (CV/-15)

TO

STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT (b) (6)

DET 36, serving on board the USS RANDOLPH (CVA-15), concerning accident of 27 October 1956:

On the night of 27 October 1956, at about 2045B, I was the second ADSW of three to break downwind at 1500 feet off the port quarter of the Randolph. The aircraft was side number 704, BuNo 132789 and call "Anyface Six." As I came upwind at 1000 feet on the starboard side of the Randolph I noticed the lights of four aircraft in the landing pattern, the lead ADSW up ahead, and the third ADSW flowm by LTJG (b) (6) coming behind me in a port/turn about the stern. I also could see the lights of an aircraft off my port wing headed downwind abeam the port side of the ship. I feel quite certain this was the AJ.

Hardgrove Tower ordered the AD5W's to go around once more before joining the landing pattern. As I turned at 1000 feet downwind of the carrier I again noticed the lights of AD5W, BuNo 139557, following me and further back, also outboard, the red wind and white tail light of the AJ. Two aircraft appeared in the pattern as LCDR (b) (6) in AD5W BuNo 135783 broke up ahead of me. Then as I passed the ship on the starboard beam I heard Hardgrove Tower notify the AJ it was clear to enter the landing pattern and break. I heard the pilot answer "Roger".

I turned downwind up shead of the ship and saw 139557 approaching off my port side at a lower altitude. I could see the tail light of 135183 up shead of me going downwind. Also I saw the white light of a plane off the starboard quarter of the ship wide out. That was the last I saw or heard from the AJ as I concentrated on my landing.

(b) (6)

VAW-12, DET-36, USS RANDOLPH (CVA-15)

STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) (b) (6)
U. S. NAVAL RESERVE, VAN-12, DET-36, serving on board the USS RANDOLPH (CVA-15), concerning accident of 27 October 1956.

I was the pilot of ADSW, BuNo 139557 on the night of 27 October 1956. I was the last man in a flight of three (3) ADSW's. We had just made a downwind break when the tower told us to hold our altitude for another circuit as the pattern was too crowded. At this time, coming up astern the ship at 1000 feet, I noticed the AJ wide to the starboard side of the ship. I continued in a wide circle at 1000-1500 feet and abeam the port side I began letting down for a break. I noticed an aircraft slightly inside and behind me which I thought was ADSW, BuNo 132789, and another aircraft in front and outside of me which I thought was the AJ. As I came alongside the ship ADSW BuNo 132789 called breaking and the aircraft ahead and to the right of me went into a port turn over me. I then realized that the AJ was the plane behind me. Later, as I was flying downwind, I heard the AJ call the tower that he was breaking upwind. That was the last transmission I heard. I was parked and out of my plane by the time anyone knew the plane was missing.

(b) (6)

LTJG, U. S. Naval Reserve VAW-12, DET 36, USS RANDOLPH (CVA-15)

USS RANDOLPH CVA-15 AEROLOGICAL OFFICE

27 OCTOBER 1956

2055B

26 knots

39 knots

14 knots

ACCIDENT REPORT

Ship's course and speed

Relative wind

True wind

Weather

Visibility

Pressure

Altimeter

Temperature

Dew point

Sea State

Sca water temperature

170 degrees

000

350 degrees

141 degrees

Clear with haze

6 miles-haze

1020.4 millibars

30.19 inches

67.5 degrees F.

60 degrees F.

Slight-two foot sea from the southeast

68 degrees F.

(b) (6)

(b) (6

AEROLOGICAL OFFICER

18

ENCLOSURE (1)

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ADDENDUKT #1, Page 1 #15

15. This green eard pilot was considered the best instrument man in the detachment, having over 4,000 hours of flight time, much in a VR outfit. He had a total of 194 hours in the AJ type aircraft which is considered far in excess of adequate for familiarity. He had, however, only five night carrier landings. Two such landings are necessary for night VFR qualification, and six for all weather night qualification. The night of the accident was VFR with good visibility but totaly without an horison. (b) (5)

(b) (5

The turn downded at night is a standard instrument turn but is done in order to come into a precise relationship with the ship, and it is therefore tempting to glance over the shoulder and see the ship. This has often in the past led to loss of orientation and a water crash, as witnessed by surviving pilots. While it is impossible to prove that there was not an electric or power failure, or anything else, the lack of a Mayday call or other evidence of emergency, and in view of the many other aircraft that have flown into the water in that exact same position (b) (5)

Item 15, page 1: new information from health record: Summary of pertinent facts from the Abstract

1/6/48 Pneumotherex

3/21/48 Fleurisy, Scrofibrinous

10/6/52 Pericarditis, Serofibrinous acute, benign and from #28, Standard Form 88;

ADDRNOUM: #1, Page 1 #15 continued.

"History of spentaneous pneumothorax in January 1948. Bed rest for three months and no evidence of acid fast infection found. Since then completely asymptomatic with no residuals. Physical examination of chest negative. NCD."

There is no record of what examinations were made, or what qualified opinions were obtained at the time of the above listed illnesses.

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SUMPARY OF AUTOPSY PINDINGS UNDERWOOD, Basil Martin, ACI, (b) (6) USN Conducted on USS RANDOLPH (CVA-15) on 28 October 1956 EXTERNAL: INTERNAL: Cause of death: Drouning and shock. Respectfully submitted,

Addendum
UNDERWOOD, Basil Martin, AOL, (b) (6)
USN
#12 Page 2

(b) (5)

This man was in a flying status as a non-crew member. As such he had no log book and therefore no flight clothing of his own. He was wearing dungarees and an antique helmet full of bolt heads, secondary missiles, and fastened by a cloth chin strap.

at their home base this squadron maintains a flight gear pool for such men, but no pool is available aboard ship.

Plying in dungarees and borrowed, poorly fitting safety equipment unnecessarily endangers the limbs, and often the lives of these non-crew members. It is recommended that steps be taken to allow the fairly small number of them in the Mavy to draw personal flight gear.

Further, squadron safety officers or flight surgeons should periodically inspect eremen's safety equipment to eliminate many ingenious and dangerous inovations.

BUMMARY OF AUTOPSY FINDINGS BAILEY, Jimmie Ray, AO2, (b) (6) Conducted on USS RANDQLPH (GVA-15) on 28 October 1956 EXTERNAL INTERNAL: (b) (6)

ABDOME!

SHEMARY OF AUTOPSY FINDENGS on BAILSY, Jimmie Ray, AO2, (b) (6) USN Conducted on USS RANDOLFH (CVA-15) on 28 October 1956

(b) (6)

Cause of deathr Drowning.

Respectfully submitted,

(b) (6)

LT MC USIR

(b) (6)

Addendum BAILEY, Jinmie Ray, AO2, (b) (6) //12 Page 2 (b) (5)











